



03500.017597.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
MASAKI MIZUTANI, ET AL. )  
Application No.: 10/670,301 )  
Filed: September 26, 2003 )  
For: METHOD FOR GROWING )  
SILICON FILM, METHOD FOR )  
MANUFACTURING SOLAR )  
CELL, SEMICONDUCTOR )  
SUBSTRATE, AND SOLAR CELL ) December 15, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the non-US documents are also enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,387,780
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,566,277
- (3) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0092464
- (4) Japan 62-101084
- (5) Japan 3-23678

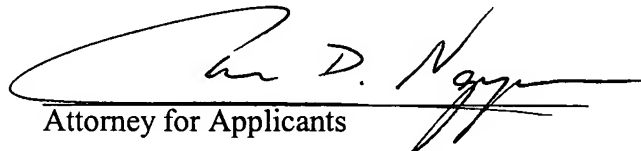
A concise explanation of relevance for references (4) and (5) can be found on pages 1 and 2 of the specification. English-language abstracts for references (4) and (5) are also enclosed.

No copies of the cited U.S. Patents are being provided, in accordance with the Pre-Official Gazette Notice dated July 11, 2003, entitled "Information Disclosure Statements Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003."

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

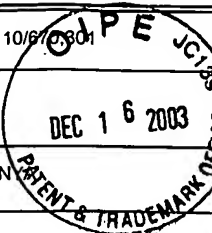
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			ATTY DOCKET NO. 02500.017597.  APPLICANT Masaki Mizutani, et al.		APPLICATION NO. 10/872301  FILING DATE 09/26/2003		GROUP N  	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		6,387,780	05/14/02	Nishida	438	497		
		6,566,277	05/20/03	Nakagawa et al.	438	761		
		2002/0092464	07/18/02	Nakagawa et al.	117	94		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT	
		62-101084	05/11/87	Japan			Abstract	
		3-23678	01/31/91	Japan			Abstract	
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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